

Message Text

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51

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-03 EB-07 COME-00 IO-10

INT-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DOTE-00 /074 W

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FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3753

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 361

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PFOR, EC, US

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. TUNA VESSEL: LICENSE FOR A. K. STROM

1. CAPT. RICO OF STROM, GEORGE GLIGO, LAWYER ZAPATIER, AND CONSUL
GENERAL MET FOR 45 MINUTES EVENING OF FEB. 28 WITH ACTING MIN. NATURAL

RESOURCES (SUB SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES RODRIGUEZ) IN OFFICES OF
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FISHERIES. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS
EXCEPTION TO 600 NRT REGULATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT PURCHASE OF
FISHING LICENSE FOR A. K. STROM. (MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 1530 POSTPONED

BECAUSE OF RODRIGUEZ' LATE ARRIVAL FROM QUITO AND ZAPATIER'S DELAY
IN PREPARING LICENSE PETITION.)

2. CONGEN STATED THAT RICO WILLING TO HAVE SEVERAL WELLS SEALED BY
ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES TO BRING STROM CAPACITY BELOW THAT OF 600 NRT
VESSEL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN LICENSE. IF LICENSE ISSUED, IT WOULD BE ON
CONDIITION THAT STROM WOULD BE INSPECTED BY GOE OFFICIALS PRIOR TO
DEPARTURE

ECUADOREAN CLAIMED WATERS TO VERIFY THAT SEALS HAD NOT
BEEN BROKEN, ZAPATIER GAVE HIS VIEWS ON JURIDICAL GROUNDS OF
ISSUING STROM A LICENSE AND PRESENTED RODRIGUEZ WITH PETITION

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SIGNED BY RICO AND ZAPATIER REQUESTING THAT SUCH A LICENSE BE ISSUED.

3. RODRIGUEZ LISTENED ATTENTATIVELY AND REMARKED THAT VIEWS PRESENTED REPRESENTED A NEW APPROACH TO 600 NRT THAT WERE WORTHY OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT SEALED WELLS COULD BE REASONABLE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTION BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS A PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND THAT HE DID NOT WISH RAISE FALSE HOPES THAT PETITION WOULD BE APPROVED.

4. RODRIGUEZ STATED THAT AS A PERSON HE SYMPATHIZED WITH RICO'S PREDICAMENT AND UNDERSTOOD HIS DESIRE FOR SPEEDY SOLUTION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT AS GOE OFFICIAL HE MUST COMPLY WITH ECUADOREAN LAW WHICH REQUIRES THAT PETITION BE APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY CONCEJO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO PESQUERO WHICH SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN MARCH 6. RODRIGUEZ ADDED THAT BECAUSE DECISION ON STROM LICENSE PETITION WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT AND LASTING CONSEQUENCES, IT NECESSARY TO GIVE IT CAREFUL STUDY.

5. STROM SITUATION THOROUGHLY REHASHED IN LATE EVENING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CONGEN, RICO, AND GLIGO AND AGAIN AT MARCH 1 MORNING MEETING AT CONSULATE GENERAL. DECISION REACHED BY RICO AND GLIGO AFTER TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS WITH JOHN REAL IS TO PAY US \$120,00.00 # FOR CATCH ON BOARD AS ORDERED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES (PERHAPS ON MONDAY, MARCH 3) SO THAT STROM MAY DEPART SALINAS SOONEST.

IF LICENSE PETITION APPROVED, STROM COULD RETURN TO ECUADOREAN PORT FOR SEALING OF WELLS. RICO STILL TALKING ABOUT SETTING HIS NETS WHEREVER HE FINDS FISH EVEN IF LICENSE REQUEST DENIED.
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